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Title:

ALP Broadcast by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Don Dunstan, QC, MP.

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3535
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A.L.P. BROADCAST BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HON. DON DUNSTAN,
Q.C., M.P., 5-K.A., WEDNESDAY, 16/10/68. 6.55 P.M.

GOOD EVENING :

EVERYONE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA SHOULD REALIZE THE EFFECTS OF THE TREASURER'S PROPOSALS FOR STAMP DUTY BECAUSE EVERYBODY'S WEEKLY PURCHASES ARE GOING TO BE AFFECTED. IN THE FIRST PLACE, EVERY BUSINESS WILL HAVE TO PAY ONE CENT IN TEN DOLLARS ON ITS TURNOVER. THIS, OF COURSE, IN ITSELF IS SOMETHING WHICH WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER AND SO WILL INCREASE THE PRICE OF GOODS WHEN THE WAGE-EARNER, THE PENSIONER, THE SUPERANNUATED CIVIL SERVANT ARE ALREADY FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE ENDS MEET. BUT THERE IS A MORE REMARKABLE PROVISION STILL. EVERY TRANSACTION PURCHASING SOME ARTICLE FROM A BUSINESS WILL CARRY A DUTY OF ONE CENT FOR EVERY TEN DOLLARS OR EVERY PART OF TEN DOLLARS.. THAT MEANS THAT IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE LOCAL SHOP TO BUY A PACKET OF CIGARETTES OR EVEN A BOX OF MATCHES, ON THAT TRANSACTION THERE WILL BE ONE CENT DUTY PAYABLE. EVERY SMALL ITEM OF PURCHASE, NO

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MATTER HOW SMALL IT IS, WILL CARRY ONE CENT DUTY. SO IT IS NOT JUST A MATTER OF ONE CENT IN TEN DOLLARS ON TURNOVER, BUT EVERY TRANSACTION WHICH CONSTITUTES SOME SMALL OR HOUSEHOLD PURCHASE, NO MATTER THAT IT DOES NOT APPROACH TEN DOLLARS IN VALUE, WILL BEAR A ONE CENT DUTY. SO IF YOUR CHILD BUYS AN ICE CREAM, THERE IS ONE CENT DUTY ON THAT. IF YOU BUY A LOAF OF BREAD, YOU WILL PAY ONE CENT DUTY ON THAT. THIS MEANS THAT THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SMALL PURCHASES WILL BE PAYING VERY MUCH MORE FOR THE COST OF THEIR GOODS THAN ONE CENT IN TEN DOLLARS, AND IT MUST HIT EVERY HOUSEHOLD BUDGET EXTRAORDINARILY HARD. WHAT IS MORE, THE TREASURER WILL GIVE NO UNDERTAKING THAT HE WILL NOT THIS YEAR EXTEND THE DUTY TO A PAYMENT OUT OF EVERY WAGE AND SALARY PAY PACKET DIRECTLY TO THE TREASURY EACH WEEK OR FORTNIGHT. AT THE MOMENT, OF COURSE, THE DUTY HAS NOT NOT BEEN IMPOSED BECAUSE THE MEASURE IS STILL BEFORE PARLIAMENT, BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE NUMBERS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MR. STOTT

TO CARRY THE PROPOSAL. IT IS A SWEEPING MEASURE, VERY MUCH HEAVIER IN IMPOST THAN ANYTHING EVER PROPOSED BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THIS VERY TREASURER, MR. PEARSON, AT THE TIME THE LABOR GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED QUITE MILD PROPOSALS FOR COMPULSORY RECEIPT DUTY ON LARGE PURCHASES, SAID THAT THIS WAS HITTING EVERY BUSINESS AND HOUSEHOLD BUDGET WITH A DOUBLE-BARRELLED GUN, AND THAT IT COULD NOT BUT HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON BUSINESS AND HOME BUDGETS. HE WAXED VERY ELOQUENT ON THIS SCORE AND USED THE MEMBERS IN THE UPPER HOUSE ON HIS SIDE OF PARLIAMENT TO MOVE SUCH AMENDMENTS TO OUR PROPOSALS THAT THE REVENUE TO THE STATE WAS REDUCED AT A TIME WHEN WE HAD TO EXPAND EXPENDITURE AND WHEN THEY HAD DONE THAT, THEY SAID THAT WE WERE GUILTY OF IRRESPONSIBLE FINANCING.

NOW, CONTRARY TO EVERYTHING HE SAID AND DID AT THE TIME, HE HAS INTRODUCED A MEASURE WHICH WILL HAVE A GRAVE INFLATIONARY EFFECT AND WILL ADVERSELY HIT THE POCKETS OF EACH

WAGE AND SALARY EARNER, AND EVERYONE ON A FIXED INCOME.

HOW CAN YOU TRUST A GOVERNMENT WHICH SAYS ONE THING BEFORE IT GETS INTO OFFICE AND SO OBVIOUSLY DOES COMPLETELY THE CONTRARY WHEN IT THINKS IT HAS THE PEOPLE AT ITS MERCY? THEY ARE SIMPLY NO LONGER CREDIBLE AS PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY.

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